AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A highly palatable ductile chewable veterinary composition comprising (A) an effective amount of one or more ingredients that are active against animal pests, pathogens or animal diseases; (B) meat flavoring; (C) partially gelatinized starch; (D) a softener; and (E) up to about 9% water.

2. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein the animal disease is selected from the group consisting of viral infections, bacterial infections, behavioral disorders, inflammatory diseases, and auto-immune diseases.

3. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said meat flavoring is about 20 to about 30% (w/w).

4. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 3 wherein the natural meat flavoring comprises about 20 to about 55% (w/w) fat.

5. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said partially gelatinized starch is about 25 to about 70% (w/w).

6. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 5 wherein the partially gelatinized starch comprises about 12 to about 17% (w/w) of gelatinized starch.

7. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said softener is about 10 to about 20% (w/w), based upon the weight of the partially gelatinized starch.

8. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 7 wherein the softener is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol.

9. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said water is about 4 to about 6% (w/w).

10. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein the animal pests are selected from the group consisting of external animal parasites, international animal parasites, and a combination of external and internal animal parasites.

11. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/w) of a sweetener.

12. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 comprising 0 to about 3.5% (w/w) of an antioxidant.

13. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 comprising 0 to about 5% (w/w) of a coloring agent.

14. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 comprising 0 to about 4% (w/w) of sodium chloride.

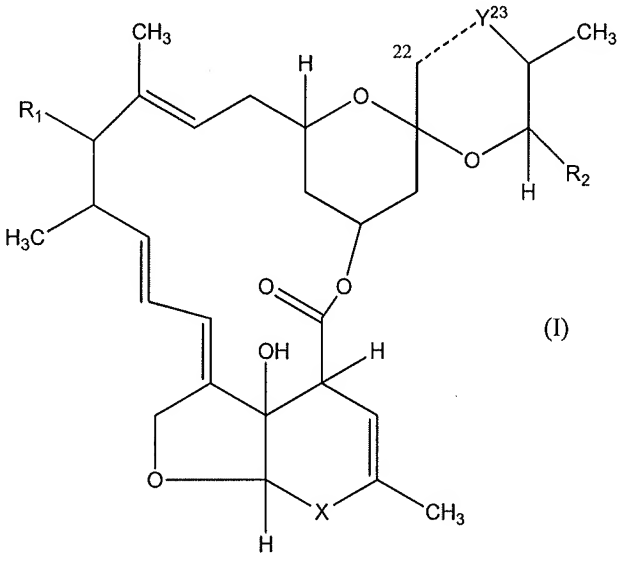
15. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein the ingredient is an effective amount of a parasiticide selected from the group consisting of an eco-parasiticide, an endo-parasiticide, an endectocide, a combination of an eco-parasiticide and an endo-parasiticide, a combination of an eco-parasiticide and an endectocide, a combination of an endo-parasiticide and an endectocide, and a combination of an eco-parasiticide, an endo-parasiticide and an endectocide.

16. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 15 wherein the ecto-parasiticide is active against insects, members of the order Acarina or insects and members of the order Acarina.

17. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 16 wherein the ecto-parasiticide is an insecticide which is either an insect adulticides or insect growth regulators.

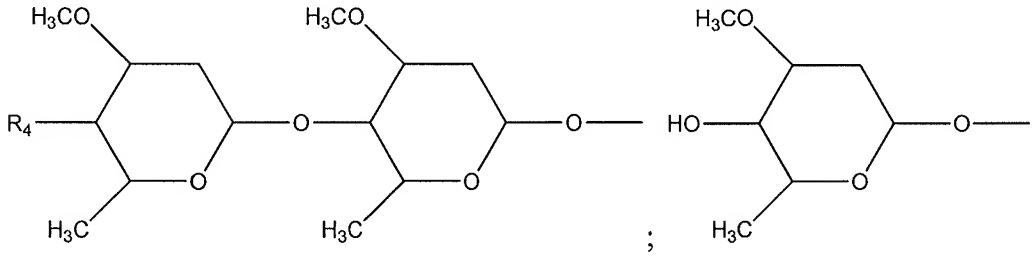
18. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 15 wherein said parasiticide is selected from the group consisting of macrocyclic lactones, benzimidazoles, pro-benzimidazoles, imidazothiazoles, tetrahydropyrimidines, organophosphates and piperazines.

19. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 18 wherein said parasiticide is an effective amount of a natural or chemically modified macrocyclic lactone of formula (I)



(I)

wherein X is -C(H)(OH)-; -C(O)-; or -C(=N--OH)-; Y is $-C(H_2)-$; =C(H)-; -C(H)(OH)-; or -C(=N-OCH_3)-; R_1 is hydrogen or one of radicals



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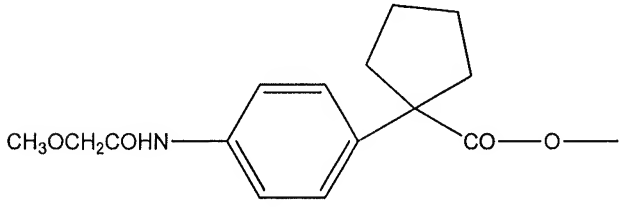


or

R_4 is hydroxyl, -NH-CH_3 or -NH-OCH_3; R_2 is hydrogen, -CH_3, -C_2H_5, -$CH(CH_3)$-CH_3, -$CH(CH_3)$-C_2H_5, -$C(CH_3)$=CH-$CH(CH_3)_2$ or cyclohexyl; and if the bond between atoms 22 and 23 represents a double bond the carbon atom in 23-position is unsubstituted so that Y is =C(H)-, or if is the bond between atoms 22 and 23 is a single bond the carbon atom in 23-position is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy or by the group =N-O-CH_3 so that Y is -$C(H_2)$-; -C(H)(OH)-; or -C(=N-OCH_3)-; in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

20. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 19 wherein the macrocyclic lactone is a compound of the formula (I) wherein X is -C(H)(OH)-; Y is -$C(H_2)$-; R_1 is the radical R_2 is -CH_3 or C_2H_5, and the bond between atoms 22 and 23 represents a single bond.

21. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 18 wherein the macrocyclic lactone is selected from the group consisting of avermectins, milbemycins, derivatives of avermectins, and derivatives of milbemycins, in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

22. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 18 wherein the macrocyclic lactone is selected from the group consisting of Ivermectin, Doramectin, Moxidectin, Selamectin, Emamectin, Eprinomectin, Milbemectin, Abamectin, Milbemycin oxime, Nemadectin, and a derivative thereof, in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

23. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 18 comprising an effective amount of a macrocyclic lactone in combination with an effective amount of an anthelmintic selected from the group consisting of Albendazole, Clorsulon, Cydectin, Diethylcarbamazine, Febantel, Fenbendazole, Haloxon, Levamisole, Mebendazole, Morantel, Oxyclozanide, Oxibendazole, Oxfendazole, Oxfendazole, Oxamniquine, Pyrantel, Piperazine, Praziquantel, Thiabendazole, Tetramisole, Trichlorfon, Thiabendazole, and a derivative thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 18 comprising

additionally an effective amount of an insecticide, acaricide or an insecticide and an acaricide.

25. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said one or more ingredients are an effective amount of milbemycin oxime and praziquantel.

26. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said one or more ingredients are an effective amount of lufenuron, praziquantel and milbemycin oxime.

27. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of cyclosporin.

28. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of an antimicrobial selected from the group consisting of a penicillin, tetracycline, sulfonamide, cephalosporin, cephamycin, aminoglucosid, trimethoprim, dimetridazole, erythromycin, framycetin, fruazolidone, pleuromutilin, streptomycin and a compound that is active against protozoa.

29. (Withdrawn) A chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of a compound that is active against one or more behavioral disorders including separation worry and travel sickness of dogs and cats.

30. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a highly palatable ductile chewable veterinary composition of claim 1, comprising (i) feeding the hopper of an extruder with an effective amount of one or more ingredients that are active against animal pests, pathogens or animal diseases; meat flavoring; partially gelatinized starch; a softener; and up to about 9% (w/w) of water, (ii) cooling constantly down the mixture of active ingredients and carriers so that the temperature of the extrudate that leaves the tip of the extruder does during the whole extrusion process at no time exceed 40°C., (iii) pressing the extrudate through a die that is decisive for the shape of the chewable product, and (iv) cutting the extrudate that leaves the extruder into equal pieces.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30 wherein the hopper of the extruder is fed continuously and simultaneously with pre-mixture (1) and pre-mixture (2), wherein pre-mixture (1) comprises a homogenized mixture of one or more active ingredients

and partially gelatinized starch, and pre-mixture (2) comprises a homogenized mixture of meat flavoring, a softener and optionally a carrier selected from the group consisting of a sweetener, softener, an antioxidant, a coloring agent and sodium chloride.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30 wherein the extruder is cooled down below room temperature.

33. (Withdrawn) Method of controlling nonhuman animal pests or nonhuman animal pathogens or of curing or preventing nonhuman animals diseases in an animal in need of said controlling or curing or preventing thereof comprising feeding an animal with a palatable ductile chewable veterinary composition according to claim 1.

34. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 33, wherein the palatable ductile chewable veterinary composition consist of one chewable portion containing an effective amount of a compound or mixture of compounds capable of controlling nonhuman animal pests or nonhuman animal pathogens or of curing or preventing nonhuman animals diseases.

35. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 34 wherein the amount of active ingredient is adjusted to the bodyweight of the nonhuman animal that is in need of the treatment.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said meat flavoring comprises about 20 to about 30% (w/w) of a natural meat flavoring.

38. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 37 wherein the natural meat flavoring comprises about 20 to about 55% (w/w) fat.

39. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said partially gelatinized starch is about 25 to about 70% (w/w).

40. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 39 wherein the partially gelatinized starch comprises about 12 to about 17% (w/w) of gelatinized starch.

41. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said softener is about 10 to about 20% (w/w), based upon the weight of the partially gelatinized starch.

42. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the softener is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol.

43. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said water is about 3 to about 7% (w/w) of water.

44. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein the animal pests are external animal parasites or internal animal parasites or both.

45. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/w) of a sweetener.

46. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 comprising 0 to about 3.5% (w/w) of an antioxidant.

47. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 comprising 0 to about 5% (w/w) of a coloring agent.

48. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 comprising 0 to about 4% (w/w) of sodium chloride.

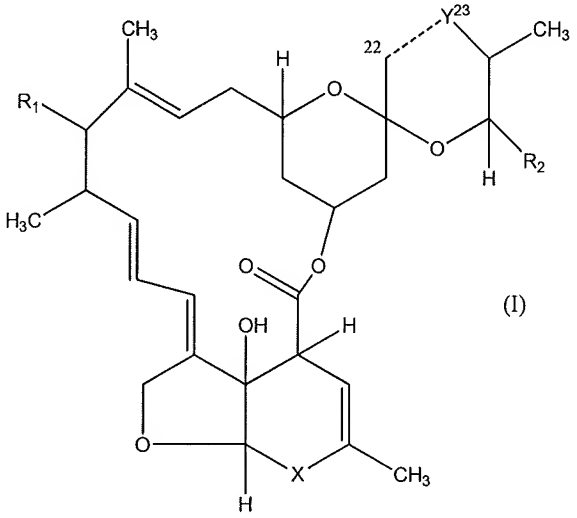
49. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein the ingredient is an effective amount of a parasiticide selected from the group consisting of an eco-parasiticide, an endo-parasiticide, an endectocide, a combination of an eco-parasiticide and an endo-parasiticide, a combination of an eco-parasiticide and an endectocide, a combination of an endo-parasiticide and an endectocide, and a combination of an eco-parasiticide, an endo-parasiticide and an endectocide.

50. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49 wherein the ecto-parasiticide is active against insects, members of the order Acarina or insects and members of the order Acarina.

51. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49 wherein the ecto-parasiticide is an insecticide which is either an insect adulticides or insect growth regulators.

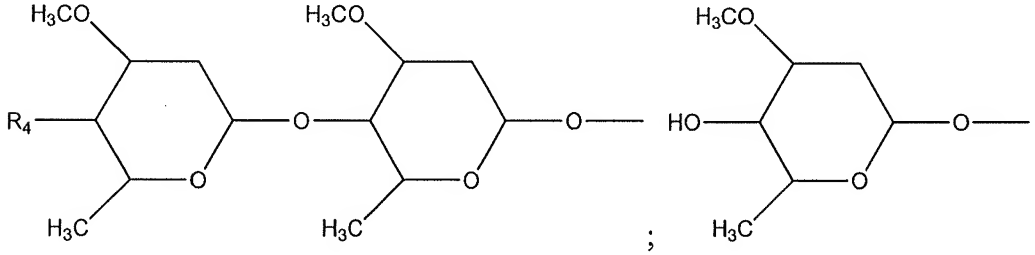
52. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49 wherein said parasiticide is selected from the group consisting of macrocyclic lactones, benzimidazoles, pro-benzimidazoles, imidazothiazoles, tetrahydropyrimidines, organophosphates and piperazines.

53. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 52 wherein said macrocyclic lactone is an effective amount of a natural or chemically modified macrocyclic lactone of formula (I)



(I)

wherein X is -C(H)(OH)-; -C(O)-; or -C(=N--OH)-; Y is -$C(H_2)$-; =C(H)-; -C(H)(OH)-; or -$C(=N\text{-}OCH_3)$-; R_1 is hydrogen or one of radicals



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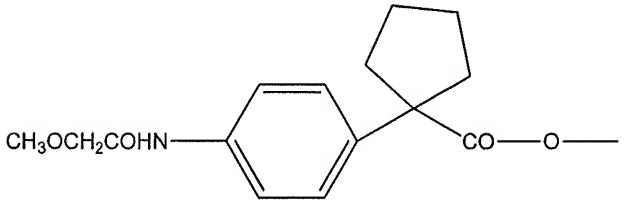

or

R_4 is hydroxyl, -NH-CH_3 or -NH-OCH_3; R_2 is hydrogen, -CH_3, -C_2H_5, -$CH(CH_3)$-CH_3, -$CH(CH_3)$-C_2H_5, -$C(CH_3)$=CH-$CH(CH_3)_2$ or cyclohexyl; and if the bond between atoms 22 and 23 represents a double bond the carbon atom in 23-position is unsubstituted so that Y is =C(H)-, or if is the bond between atoms 22 and 23 is a single bond the carbon atom in 23-position is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy or by the group =N-O-CH_3 so that Y is -$C(H_2)$-; -C(H)(OH)-; or -C(=N-OCH_3)-; in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

54. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 53 wherein the macrocyclic lactone is a compound of the formula (I) wherein X is -C(H)(OH)-; Y is -$C(H_2)$-; R_1 is the radical R_2 is -CH_3 or C_2H_5, and the bond between atoms 22 and 23 represents a single bond.

55. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 52 wherein the macrocyclic lactone is selected from the group consisting of avermectins, milbemycins, derivatives of avermectins, and derivatives of milbemycins, in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

56. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 52 wherein the macrocyclic lactone is selected from the group consisting of Ivermectin, Doramectin, Moxidectin, Selamectin, Emamectin, Eprinomectin, Milbemectin, Abamectin, Milbemycin oxime, Nemadectin, and a derivative thereof, in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

57. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49 wherein said parasiticide is an effective amount of a macrocyclic lactone in combination with an effective amount of an anthelmintic selected from the group consisting of Albendazole, Clorsulon, Cydectin, Diethylcarbamazine, Febantel, Fenbendazole, Haloxon, Levamisole, Mebendazole, Morantel, Oxyclozanide, Oxibendazole, Oxfendazole, Oxfendazole, Oxamniquine, Pyrantel, Piperazine, Praziquantel, Thiabendazole, Tetramisole, Trichlorfon, Thiabendazole, and a derivative thereof.

58. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49 wherein in addition to an endo-parasiticide or an endecticide, said ingredient further comprises an effective amount of an insecticide, acaricide or an insecticide and an acaricide.

59. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said ingredient is an effective

amount of milbemycin oxime and praziquantel.

60. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of lufenuron, praziquantel and milbemycin oxime.

61. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of cyclosporin.

62. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of an antimicrobial selected from the group consisting of a penicillin, tetracycline, sulfonamide, cephalosporin, cephamycin, aminoglucosid, trimethoprim, dimetridazole, erythromycin, framycetin, fruazolidone, pleuromutilin, streptomycin and a compound that is active against protozoa.

63. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 33 wherein said ingredient is an effective amount of a compound that is active against one or more behavioral disorders including separation worry and travel sickness of dogs and cats.

64. (Canceled)

65. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the chewable veterinary composition comprises 20% to 30 % (w/w) of a natural meat flavoring.

66. (New) The method according to claim 65, wherein the natural meat flavoring comprises 20% to 55 % (w/w) fat.

67. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the chewable veterinary composition comprises 25% to 70 % (w/w) of partially gelatinized starch.

68. (New) The method according to claim 67, wherein the partially gelatinized starch comprises 12% to 17 % (w/w) of gelatinized starch.

69. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the chewable veterinary composition comprises 10% to 20 % (w/w) of a softener, based upon the weight of the partially gelatinized starch.

70. (New) The method according to claim 69, wherein the softener is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol.

71. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the chewable veterinary composition comprises 4% to 6 % (w/w) of water.

72. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the one or more ingredients that are active against animal pests, pathogens or animal diseases, comprise a macrocyclic lactone selected from the group consisting of avermectins, milbemycins and derivatives thereof, in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

73. (New) The method according to claim 72, wherein the macrocyclic lactone is selected from the group consisting of Ivermectin, Doramectin, Moxidectin, Selamectin, Emamectin, Eprinomectin, Milbemectin, Abamectin, Milbemycin oxime, Nemadectin, and derivatives thereof, in free form or in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt.

74. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the one or more ingredients that are active against animal pests, pathogens or animal diseases consist of an effective amount of milbemycin oxime and praziquantel.

75. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the one or more ingredients that are active against animal pests, pathogens or animal diseases consist of an effective amount of lufenuron, praziquantel and milbemycin oxime.